The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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LAW OF THE JUNGLE CANNOT APPLY TO WAGES

The theory that wages must be based on competition between workers is a revival of the jungle code.

Under this system human relations in industry is impossible.

There can be no living standard when the tiger's law prevails.

Then wages are regulated by the number of out-of-works with no arbitration, conference or mutuality—the weak are ground to bits in the struggle to exist.

Logically, the competition advocate finds himself in a position he dare not acknowledge—a surplus of labor competing for every job, with living standards falling to Chinese levels.

The competition advocate dare not be logical. He lacks the courage to follow labor's theory to its end.

He cannot say that "the interests of capital (capitalists) and labor are identical."* He dare not claim that the law of tooth and claw recognizes aught but power.

There is neither ethics or morality in the competition theory.

Capitalists have abandoned competition between themselves, but maintain the fiction in the case of workers while they talk about the "immutable law of supply and demand"—and close their factories to maintain prices.

This banquet and editorial space-filling stuff is supposed to awe workers who see organizations of capitalists smash this "natural" law.

The theory that competition must regulate wages is contrary to humane instincts. It means charity organizations and the long train of evils associated with pauperism.

The theory is surrounded by every fence that cheap-labor advocates can muster to its defense, for this age is no exception to the rule that every age has its defenders of exploitation and greed.

Trade unionism is the answer to jungaleers who would have workers tearing themselves, their families and their homes to pieces in competition for jobs.

Trade unionism supplants the doctrine of might and necessity with reason and good will among men.

Agitate! Educate! Organize!

* "Immutable law of supply and demand"—and close their factories to maintain prices.

Unique Co-Op. Plan Is Successful In Indiana

Washington, Feb. 24—A form of co-operative coal mining has started at Dugger, Indiana, according to J. Hugh Bourquin, mining engineer of the United States bureau of mines.

The mine property was leased eight years ago by the miners, who formed the Dugger Mutual Coal and Mining company. Now there are 37 miners and 20 day men employed. These workers are members of the United Mine Workers. At first many difficulties were encountered, but after a struggle the mine was put on a paying basis.

The company is not incorporated, but is formed as a partnership organization. Thus, legal responsibility for any indebtedness incurred rests both on the company and its individual members. Only men who actually work at the mine are admitted to partnership. The day men are paid according to the prevailing wage scale of the district. When it is deemed advisable to admit more miners men employed in other capacities are given preference. On assuming the duties of miners they become partners in the company and are entitled to a share of the earnings.

All business transactions are handled by two committees—a finance committee of three members and a policy committee of five members. Each member of the company has a vote on the election of members to these committees.

The superintendent of the mine is paid a monthly salary equal to one-tenth of the sum of the earnings of the 10 miners receiving the highest wage for the month. This naturally encourages close supervision and efficiency on the part of the officials.

The wages of day men, sales commissions, royalty fees and other overhead expenses are deducted from the gross income derived from sales of coal during the given period. The remainder represents the net earnings of the mine. This sum is pro-rated to the partners according to their respective net tonnages and distributed among them as used in the boiler plant. By this method each man shares in the profits of the company according to the amount of coal he produces.

If a part of the company's business relations with the company, his earnings are paid up in full and his wife and children receive that which he has paid by assessments for relief. It is said that there is always a waiting list of day workers eager to take the place of any miner who resigns.

Trouble arises occasionally among the day men, in this mine, as elsewhere, and when these differences can not be settled between the day men and a committee representing the company, strikes have occurred. Then all work is stopped, and the miners who comprise the partnership under which the mine operates have their tools and come out with the strikers and the mine is closed until the differences have been arbitrated by the executive board of the Miners' union.

WOULD CHINAFY AMERICA.

Lake Charles, La., Feb. 26.—Frances C. Harley, of Astoria, Ore., urged Chinese immigration before an audience of business men in this place. The speaker is secretary of the national immigration council and is making a nation-wide tour, he said, to create public opinion in favor of the importation of Chinese labor under contract of from three to five years' service on the farms and in the industries of this country.

The speaker did not favor European immigration except of the "pick and shovel" variety. He favored the application of the illiteracy test that "common laborers" may be admitted.

In answer to questions after the address the speaker was uncautious enough to state that the present labor clause would be a wedge to open the way for Chinese labor to country and after the public had experience with this labor and found it satisfactory then the contract phrase could be removed.

OPPOSE CENSORSHIP.

Washington, Feb. 26.—"I hope the New York legislature will demonstrate a better understanding of our time that to add one more to the already too long list of repressive and coercive measures in our vicious law books," said President Gompers in a statement attacking the proposal to create a censorship for moving pictures in New York.

"Boys in a kind of reformatory that is both effective and in keeping with the American concept. It is voluntary censorship, established by the industry itself, with the proper representation of those who labor in the motion pictures. There is between compulsions and voluntary acts all of the difference between tyranny and democracy. It is my hope that our country will escape any censorship will make no further inroads upon American freedom of expression through motion pictures."

KILLED IN MINES.

Washington, Feb. 24.—According to reports received by the bureau of mines from the state mine inspectors of all states except Kentucky, 175 men were killed during November, 1920, in and about the coal mines of the United States, as compared with 90 in the same states in 1919. The increase is explained by the fact that, in November, 1920, the centrifl competitive field, which includes Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and western Pennsylvania.

PASS MINIMUM WAGE LAW.

Austin, Texas, Feb. 26.—The house of representatives has passed a minimum wage bill with many exemptions, which include mercantile establishments in towns of 5,000 population or less.

The industrial accident board will administer the act instead of the state industrial welfare commission.

LONGSHOREMEN OUT.

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 26.—Longshoremen employed by the Pacific Steamship company have suspended work because of attempts to deunionize this work.

UNCLE SAM IMPROVED RAILROAD METHODS

Washington, Feb. 24.—The claim of railroads that they want the national agreement with shop employes scrapped in the interest of the efficiency recalls a report by the United States railroad administration in 1919, which hints that the government improved on the boasted efficiency of railroad managers when they had individual agreements and no agreements.

"From the beginning," says the report, "the mechanical department of the railroad administration has diligently endeavored to maintain the equipment without any idea that economies should or could be realized by reducing maintenance which the equipment ought to receive. Where improper methods were found to exist action was taken through the regional directors to have more efficient methods adopted.

"A check on the Erie railroad, in 1919, showed the need for a thorough investigation of shop and engine house conditions on all railroads; therefore this work was extended and developed into a comprehensive system of reporting conditions in shop and engine house operation monthly through the regional directors.

"The importance of the changed values due to increased labor and material costs, as comparison on a monetary basis was worthless; therefore all comparisons of shop and engine house operation were made on a man-hour basis.

"To illustrate the improvement in conditions, a check of 2,921 engine houses in January, 1919, showed an average of 30.54 man-hours per locomotive handled, while a check of the same engine houses for 1918, showed 25.77 man-hours per locomotive handled, or a reduction of 5,000 in the number of man-hours in handling approximately 54,000 locomotives. This represents a saving per month of $4,363,541, which is at the rate of approximately $50,000,000 per annum."

BLANTON IS HOOTED.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Congressman Blanton was hooted off the floor of the house of representatives when Congressman Summers, of Texas, opposed the propaganda Blanton is conducting in Texas newspapers.

Blanton is telling Texas citizens that he is "sitting on the lid," and single handed and alone is saving congressmen and senators who would loot the United States treasury by increasing their salaries.

Congressman Summers denounced this demagoguery and declared that the real reason why no slip the bill over it could be easily accomplished was because the New York city and other localities making speeches on his great deeds.

Blanton resigned in disgust and roared their objection when Summers demanded his withdrawal. He finally secured three minutes to reply and whimpered that Congressman Summers was a candidate for United States senator (loud cheers) and that he had been nominated for the same office (groans and laughter).

SPY CHIEF WANTS DAMAGES.

New York, Feb. 26.—Robert J. Foster, head of the secret police of the National Investors' association, has filed suit for $100,000 damages against Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the Lockwood committee which is probing housing conditions. Foster is under indictment for perjury in connection with testimony before the investigators.

In his suit for damages Foster claims that the attorney "in the presence and hearing of divers persons, spoke defamatory words" regarding his past, which included charges that he was dismissed from the Panama police force for drunkenness and trying to collect money from saloon keepers and gamblers, and that on several occasions he was charged with conduct unbecoming an officer of the Louisville police force.

The chief says the attorney made other statements of similar character and that same were calculated to "and did hold the plaintiff up to public distrust, ridicule and contempt."

"COACHED TO LIE."

San Francisco, Feb. 26.—"I was coached and drilled in the story I will I knew Mooney and saw him at the bomb explosion," said John McDonald, star witness for the prosecution in Attorney Brady.

McDonald was the most important witness in the prosecution of Mooney and Billings, with the exception of Oxman, his honest confidant.

McDonald has repeated the substance of his statements before and has supplemented his first claim with details on the frame up. He has declared that the plot of the bomb case defendants at the scene of the explosion was suppressed until they were pointed out to him by officers of the prosecution. His testimony was prepared for him and was drilled in it by District Attorney Fickert and his assistant Edward Cunha. His "identification" of Mooney and Billings was arranged by Inspector Duff when the accused were in jail.

MANY IMMIGRANTS WANTED.

New York, Feb. 26.—Although there are millions of unemployed in this country, Banker Sisson cries for more immigrants. Mr. Sisson is vice president of a big financial institution in this city.

He says "some American industries" may have to set up factories in foreign countries "if the available "useless immigrant labor is obtainable in proper quantity and quality."

The speaker referred to the large number of immigrants admitted before Necessary, and the need for higher standards of construction and living tension, but he did not go into details on the term "proper quantity and quality."

RETAIL CLERKS AWAKEN.

Eureka, Cal. Feb. 26.—Retail clerks in this city have awakened to the necessity for a stronger organization if their conditions are to be bettered. An increased membership is the result.

PLUMBERS' STRIKE ENDS.

Houston, Texas, Feb. 26.—Striking plumbers announce a settlement of this dispute, which has existed since August of last year.

A wage scale of $10 for eight hours is the result.

AVERAGE 1919 WAGE BELOW LIVING COSTS

Boston, Feb. 26.—The boasted "high wages" are found not true, when the average is considered and the purchasing power of the dollar is recalled, according to a report by the Massachusetts department of labor and industries on "Wages and Hours of Labor in the Metal Trades of Massachusetts, 1914-1919."

In this highly skilled and important industry the average wage for men hired "in the beginning," says the report, "the mechanical department of the railroad administration has diligently endeavored to maintain the equipment without any idea that economies should or could be realized by reducing maintenance which the equipment ought to receive. Where improper methods were found to exist action was taken through the regional directors to have more efficient methods adopted.

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FAVOR U. S. COAL MINES.

Lincoln, Neb. Feb. 26.—The Nebraska house of representatives has declared in favor of nationalizing the coal industry.

Coal is mined under such varying conditions that it has been found impossible for the United States government or by market conditions, says the lawmakers. If the price is fixed high enough for the mines having the most expensive cost of production, the profit to the mines having a lower cost of production is too great, and if the price is fixed by the cost of production at the mines where production is cheapest, the market price is too low for the other mines, resulting either in their shutting down or failure to make living the price of labor.

The resolutions, the resolutions declare, "made it clear that justice to the coal miner and to the coal consumer can be had only by nationalizing the mines, thereby eliminating the profiteer, and direct the production of coal at the places where it could be produced at the greatest advantage to society as a whole and marketed under conditions which, both as to price and to coal miner's wages

MINING BY INJUNCTION.

New York, Feb. 26.—"The legal bloodsuck of the Judge Gary-Elbert court," says the New York World, launches a farcical climax in Judge Curran's decision in the Kansas Howat and five associated labor officials to be deeply grieved at the creation of an anti-strike injunction court "in the name and purposes of the Kansas industrial court law." The conception of a court to decide when capital is to receive profits and when men must work is fundamentally destructive. While our economic system endures capital will receive profits direct it and men will put their hands to the plough or the shovel when they please. No court can be trusted to dictate to industry for the good of all.

"Neither can it strip from the miners their sole means of economic competition without giving as its excuse a plea of justice that lies beyond the scope of its powers.

"To enable the president, in his discretion to act in accordance with such regulations as he may prescribe, to make special allowances by way of additional compensation to consular and diplomatic officers and embassy agents of the service of the United States, in order to adjust their official income to the increased cost of living at the posts to which they are assigned."

SICKLY PATERNALISM.

New York, Feb. 26.—The pension report of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad for the year last year 457 pensioners were paid $1,179,806. The cost to the road was $1,000. To secure the pension an employe must be in the company's railroad, mine or marine departments continuously for 25 years and have reached the age of 70. The few that reach this goal and the effect on the morale of many of the workers, who will never get the pension fund, to which the company's employe contributes, a good investment.

STEEL TRUST PROSPERS.

New York, Feb. 26. — The steel trust reports that its clear profit for 1920 was $177,174,128, or at the rate of $1,240,000,000 a year. The 1920 profits mean that after giving dividends on the common, after all taxes were paid and substantial amounts set aside for "wear and tear of plants and equipment" amounts to officials the profits equaled $16.70 a share for each share of common stock, compared with $10.26 a share in 1919.

REFUSE NATIONAL PARLEY.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—Railroad executives have rejected proposals of organized labor for conference at the controversy over a national working agreement, it was learned here today.

Referred to a national joint conference of the roads and unions for settlement of the issues in the agreements' campaign to abolish national agreements, established during the war, the unsatisfactory agreements on the various lines.

URGE AUTO COMPENSATION.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 26.—Legislation to provide state compensation for injuries and death suffered in automobile accidents is favored by some members of the state legislature. The committee on the revision would be similar in many ways to the workmen's compensation laws.

ORGANIZED TEACHERS COMMAND ATTENTION

Wilmette, Ill., Feb. 26.—The publicity department of the American Federation of Teachers, affiliated to the A. F. of L., has formed the reactionary National Educational association to make a show of interest in the teachers' welfare.

"Point by point the N. E. A. leaders have taken over the principles of the American Federation of Teachers," it is stated. "They are at least encouraging membership in those principles would win the sympathy and probably the active support of many teachers. They dread the loss of power and prestige which would follow if the N. E. A. as soon as the majority of class room teachers went over to the A. F. of L. Hence the suggestions of futility and inaction, they have in this year three times become singularly coyed to the ideas of democracy and initiative among classroom teachers. They have also tenching conditions, and a greater voice in the management of and in the N. E. A. itself. They have swallowed practically the whole teacher program of the A. F. of L., and preaching A. F. T. doctrines with conservative tongues.

"The N. E. A. machine of school administrators has exercised of looser control of school boards largely by artificial, has accomplished the complete ruin of thousands of our farmers and the permanent ruin of thousands of others. Every item of the cost of living of food, the clothing, the transportation systems and the distribution of the entire commodities, is ably represented and well entrenched in Washington. Any magnitude has failed to make itself felt in Washington and none has failed more completely than the situation which may be construed in its favor.

"The list of lobbyists include the chamber of commerce of the United States, the railroads, the railroads, ship builders, lumber men, the fertilizer interests, the packing interest which might come up occasionally for legislation, but they are not distributed in their profit-making career."

COMPANY FORCED TO YIELD.

Pittsburg, Kan., Feb. 26.—After coal miners struck on the Kansas mines to force this concern to pay a boy wages agreed to, Governor Allen's "industrial court" rushed into the limelight with another disastrous decision. The strike is at an impasse, and the strike he called off. When a deputy sheriff served the injunction on the striking miners, president of the Kansas Miners' union, the union officials refused to sign a receipt.

"I have had nothing to do with the industrial court and will have nothing to do with it now," he said. Howat has been summoned before the court for contempt of court because he disobeyed an injunction not to call a strike. He is also under indictment on a criminal charge of violating the "anti-strike" law by calling a strike. Appeals have been made in both cases.

INJUNCTION FAILS.

Wharton, N. J., Feb. 26.—The injunction method of breaking strikes has failed in the case of Wharton Miners' union No. 268, whose members have been ordered to appear six times before Vice Chancellor Fielder, former governor of the state, to show cause why the iron company has not succeeded in getting the strikers out of its property on the county, whose officials have failed to connect the strikers with lawlessness.

To date the strikers has cost the union more than $200,000. It includes court fines of $270 for alleged violation of the chancellor's injunction.

WANT INDEPENDENCE.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Feb. 26.—The Porto Rican legislature legislature have appealed to the congress of the United States to grant independence to the island. The organized workers oppose the plan, and declare it is premature and impossible. The workers call upon the independents to grant some degree of self-government to upbuild the island. They insist that their struggle for this measure is not in any way connected with a political issue. The former monarchists and industrial barons have joined the labor forces through frustification of the sugar and tobacco industry.

EMBROIDERERS STRIKE.

New York, Feb. 26.—Embroidery workers have been called out in the New Jersey side of the Hudson river are on strike for the union shop and a substantial increase in wages. Organizers in charge of the strike say that 3,000 workers will be involved. Organizers of the Embroidery Workers' union are aiding the Garment Workers' union are aiding the Garment Workers in their effort to improve conditions.

REJECT COMPANY "UNION."

Grays Harbor, Wash., Feb. 26.—Timber workers are dropping the company "union," known as the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen. Representatives of the Grays Harbor Metal Trades and Timber Workers are now endeavored to when they point to wages and conditions fixed by the legion, as the reason why employers indorse it.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 26.—The annual convention of the Georgia state federation of labor will be held in this city, beginning Wednesday, April 20.

ROCKEFELLER MONEY CORRUPTS EDUCATION

New York, Feb. 26.—In a statement signed by Peter J. Brady, chairman of the educational committee of the New York state federation of labor, John D. Rockefeller's recent gift of $750,000 to the patriotic education fund is denounced as an attempt to control education of the masses.

Of the $70,000,000, $50,000,000 is to assist colleges and universities in increasing salaries and the remainder is to be devoted to the improvement of medical education.

The statement includes excerpts from the report of the United States commission on industrial relations, which declares that the Rockefeller gift was acquired through "withholding of worker's wages," violation of law, cunning and distress.

"However, apart from the taint which besmirches such wealth," says the trade unionist, "organized labor objects vehemently to its distribution to educational institutions. Intelligent public opinion, especially with reference to the distribution of wealth, whether acquired from the profiteering of war or otherwise, will always be influenced by instructions given in secondary and higher institutions of learning.

"Such institutions should be forums for the unbiased discussion and study under the guidance of faculties free from the influence of any special interest and especially from the control of those who might seek by the bestowal of endowments as a means of insidious propaganda inimical to the best interests of the public at large.

"Organized labor is of the opinion that the Rockefeller gift or even the specific donations for research will not cannot but undermine to a degree the integrity of instruction in higher educational institutions."

RESIST ONE-MAN LAW.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 26.—Officers of the state federation of labor will ask the state supreme court to pass on the constitutionality of a provision clause of the civil administrative code, recently jammed through the legislature by the one-man power. Should the court annul the emergency clause provision, all bills enacted to secure the necessary 54,000 signatures to refer it to the people will be forced to the ballot.

The code vests in one man, appointed by the governor, power over labor and social agencies, and authorizes him to encourage the organization of "company unions." Officers of the state federation of labor declare that the measure, when stripped of its superficial pretense, is a scheme to build up an organization which would crush labor out of any participation in the administration of industrial affairs. The code, should it become effective immediately upon approval by the governor, which permits such action when the preservation of the public health, safety or morals is not directly involved. In 1915 the state supreme court defined what an emergency bill should be and declared that it believed the court will not reverse itself.

CHANGE IMMIGRATION PLAN.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The senate has passed the immigration restriction bill, passed by the house, by limiting the number of aliens of any nationality admitted to the country to the number of persons of such nation, the United States census of 1910.

Senator Johnson bill would bar all immigrants for a year, except relatives of persons already in the country. Advocates of the senate bill claim that the amendment will keep out 350,000 aliens per year.

The senate bill specifically provides that the term "relatives" be construed as amending, repealing or modifying any law, agreement or treaty. Letters, it is forbidden, admitted of any alien of any nationality or race regularly admitted to the United States to mean that it does not affect present regulations concerning the admission of Chinese or Japanese.

NO HARD TIMES HERE.

New York Feb. 26.—Notwithstanding the fact that the net income was declared $45,248,000 for the year ended December 31, federal taxes, write-off of inventories, depreciation of plants, etc. it is stated, forbids the addition of funds for these purposes. These are the reasons given for the company's liberality, and after providing surplus and reserves for interest on bonds, there remained 8 per cent equal to $2.05 a share of common stock. The dividends declared for the 14 and 15 cents on the dollar the day the report was published.

WANT COMPANY "UNION."

Cloverville, N. Y., Feb. 26.—Employes of the Cloverville Silk company was advocated at a banquet in this city to drive manufacturers of New York state into the company union, the workers' guild assembly. It is declared that the union will dispense with "outside agitators and trouble makers." The plan is one of the many that will be put into effect with the command of employers who insist on having the right to fix wages and working conditions. This intent is concealed by alluring titles.

SCHOOLS NEED EQUIPMENT.

Philadelphia, Feb. 26.—The public schools of the city need $20,000,000 to meet the provisions of the state school code and provide proper accommodations for the increase in children, according to the annual report of Superintendent Broome of school buildings. It is stated that electricity has been installed in but 20 per cent of the buildings, while 80 per cent are still clogged, so that only a small fall is obtainable."

RESTRAIN PICKETING.

Worcester, Mass., Feb. 26.—Superior Court Judge Lawton has issued an injunction against iron molders picketing two foundries where strikes have been on since June, 1919. One of the plants has been forced out of business and the other is doing no business. But this does not deter the judge from issuing a perpetual injunction against the iron molders.

ANOTHER CRUSHING BLOW DEALT MOONEY "FRAME UP"

Seattle, Feb. 24.—Following the confession of John McDonald that he, in connivance with Oxman and Mooney-Billings trials at San Francisco, Richard W. Smith of this city deals a crushing blow to the prosecution in the bomb cases.

Smith was a patrolman in San Francisco at the time of the explosion and was the first policeman in that city to volunteer in the world war. In his affidavit he says that as patrolman he searched roofs along the line of march of the preparedness parade and found no arms, engineers corps, and went overseas.

"My enlistment took me away from the scene of the bomb explosion and I was therefore unable to follow it as closely as otherwise it might and I been in San Francisco where the events in connection with the case became common talk from time to time, however, I heard of the progress of the case and decided that when an opportunity offered where my knowledge would be of the most benefit to the public I concerned that I would make that knowledge public.

"I was honorably discharged on the 29th day of July, 1919. I came to Seattle to look for work and ever since have kept myself more or less out of the public eye and desperate. I now feel fully recovered and am ready to do whatever lies in my power to secure justice for Tom Mooney."

TROUBLES FOR ALLEN.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 26.—It seems legislature has refused to be stampeded in its claim that Governor Allen is insincere. Allen has declared that the democratic legislature by members of his own party.

Representative Lambertson, former speaker of the house, in the latest of the developments in the governor's controversy with the legislature declared that the packing industry two years ago had been the only concontributed $1,500 to the Allen campaign fund. He compared the governor's scandalous charges and his unfriendliness to Kansas trade unionists to the attitude of Lambertson "not to give union labor leaders a look in upon the legislature."

As indicative of the governor's attitude toward the farmers, Lambertson said:

"When I was a candidate for governor this year I asked the city of Wichita to see the governor so he asked me several kind of a bunch of bad. I told him that it was mostly made up of farmers. The governor answered that farmers armed—that was about the worst kind of a bunch of representatives we could have."

U. S. ARMY IS SMALLEST.

Washington, Feb. 26.—This country has the smallest army of any in proportion to population, than any country in the world—three countries in the world—Brazil, Paraguay and Colombia—have smaller armies, it is claimed today according to statistics issued by the war department.

In absolute figures, Bolshevik Russia, with 1,500,000 soldiers under arms, leads the list, followed by China, with 1,162,000, to second though in proportion to population China is far exceeded by many other countries.

In a percentage basis Switzerland, with a population of 4,000,000 and an army of 212,000, leads with 4.75 per cent of the total, is first; Greece, with 5,000,000 population and an army of 240,000, or 2.28 per cent, is second, and Bulgaria, with 5,000,000 population and an army of 96,500, or 1.94 per cent, is third.

FAVORS DIRECT ACTION.

New York, Feb. 26.—The Market Bulletin says that many publications issued by financial interests in this city are manifesting sympathy with the direct action policy of railroad managers who appeared before congressional committees because it insists that hearings shall be held during the time conditions are changed. Vice President Atterbury of the Pennsylvania railroad has declared that unless relief is held the roads would be bankrupt before it could be granted.

The Market Barometer says the railroad labor board membership is a political makeshift "that proves its inability with no technical training for the task," and that the management and his associates have "full knowledge of the financial necessities and present conditions of all the roads."

A similar section of the Market Barometer, same issue, the editorial position is taken that the rail rates are printed by railroad officials who contradict Atterbury's claims.

DENOUNCE RAILROAD ACT.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The Cummins-Esch railroad act, which is the final word in statesmanship, was the subject of bitter condemnation by the senate today when Senator Winslow bill, which authorizes partial repeal of the Cummins-Esch railroad deficit that the government guaranteed. The bill was finally approved by a vote of 39 to 31.

Rates were declared too high for the public to pay and the business depression was caused by these rates, said one law maker. Senator La Follette declared that the railroads are required to "tramp to the government the enormous debts which they have incurred since the bounty of congress." Senator Trammell urged that the roads be guaranteed only 5½ per cent to 3 per cent, and Senator Kirby said the guarantee "has been responsible for the present demand fair and reasonable rates."

NEW HOMES TAX FREE.

New York, Feb. 25.—Because of the housing shortage here the board of aldermen passed an ordinance exempting from taxation for 10 years dwelling houses erected in the city of New York, from May 1, 1921, to April, 1926.

PRINTERS LOCKED OUT.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 26.—Printers employed on the Olympian and Recorder have been locked out. These employers violated their agreement with the local union to establish the anti-Chloe shop.